

What is claimed is:

1. An information provider device, comprising:

memory means for recording structure information which is information of view
5 on a structure of a semiconductor device in which at least one function block as a circuit
block having a predetermined function is formed and function block information which is
information on said function block; and

control means for reading said structure information and said function block
information out from said memory means and outputting these informations linked to
10 each other.

2. The information provider device according to claim 1, wherein

said function block information includes information on intellectual property of
said function block.

3. The information provider device according to claim 2, wherein

said function block information further includes information on advertisement of
said intellectual property.

4. The information provider device according to claim 1, wherein

said structure information includes information on constituent elements
constituting said semiconductor device,

said function block information includes information on semiconductor
manufacturing apparatus used for manufacturing said constituent elements, and

said control means reads said structure information and said information on

semiconductor manufacturing apparatus out from said memory means and outputs these informations linked to each other.

5. The information provider device according to claim 4, wherein

5 said information on semiconductor manufacturing apparatus includes information on advertisement of said semiconductor manufacturing apparatus.

6. The information provider device according to claim 1, wherein

10 said function block and said function block information each have hierarchical structure.

7. The information provider device according to claim 6, wherein

15 said function block information includes information on intellectual property of said function block or information on semiconductor manufacturing apparatus used for manufacturing constituent elements constituting said semiconductor device and information on advertisement of said intellectual property or said semiconductor manufacturing apparatus, and

20 holders of said intellectual property in respective levels of said hierarchical structure or venders of said semiconductor manufacturing apparatus in respective levels of said hierarchical structure are different from one another.

8. An information provider system, comprising:

said information provider device defined as defined in claim 1; and

25 a first information terminal connectable to said information provider device through a network,

wherein said control means outputs the whole or part of said structure information to said first information terminal and outputs said function block information linked to the whole or part of said structure information to said first information terminal on request from said first information terminal.

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9. The information provider system according to claim 8, wherein

said function block information includes information on intellectual property of said function block,

10 said information provider device and said first information terminal each have electronic commerce function, and

said information provider device conducts electronic commerce of intellectual property on said function block information with said first information terminal.

10. The information provider system according to claim 9, wherein

15 said first information terminal downloads software out of intellectual property on said function block information from said information provider device in said electronic commerce.

11. The information provider system according to claim 8, wherein

20 said function block information includes information on semiconductor manufacturing apparatus used for manufacturing said constituent elements constituting said semiconductor device,

said information provider device and said first information terminal each have electronic commerce function, and

25 said information provider device conducts electronic commerce of said

semiconductor manufacturing apparatus or information on said semiconductor manufacturing apparatus with said first information terminal.

12. The information provider system according to claim 11, wherein

5 said first information terminal downloads software on control of said semiconductor manufacturing apparatus out of information on said semiconductor manufacturing apparatus from said information provider device in said electronic commerce.

10 13. The information provider system according to claim 8, wherein

 said control means retrieves said function block information with reference to recorded contents in said memory means on the basis of information transmitted from said first information terminal.

15 14. The information provider system according to claim 8, further comprising:

 a second information terminal connectable to said information provider device through a network,

 wherein said function block information in said memory means is recorded on the basis of information transmitted from said second information terminal, and

20 said control means modifies or deletes said function block information on request from said second information terminal.

15. An advertising method for making an advertisement using said information provider device as defined in claim 1, wherein

25 said function block information includes information on intellectual property of

said function block or information on semiconductor manufacturing apparatus used for manufacturing constituent elements constituting said semiconductor device, and

said advertising method comprising the step of

making an advertisement with said function block information including
5 information on advertisement of said intellectual property or said semiconductor manufacturing apparatus.

16. The advertising method according to claim 15, wherein

said function block and said function block information each have hierarchical
10 structure, and

holders of said intellectual property in respective levels of said hierarchical structure or venders of said semiconductor manufacturing apparatus in respective levels of said hierarchical structure are different from one another.

17. The advertising method according to claim 15, wherein

said advertisement using said information provider device is made by a third
party.